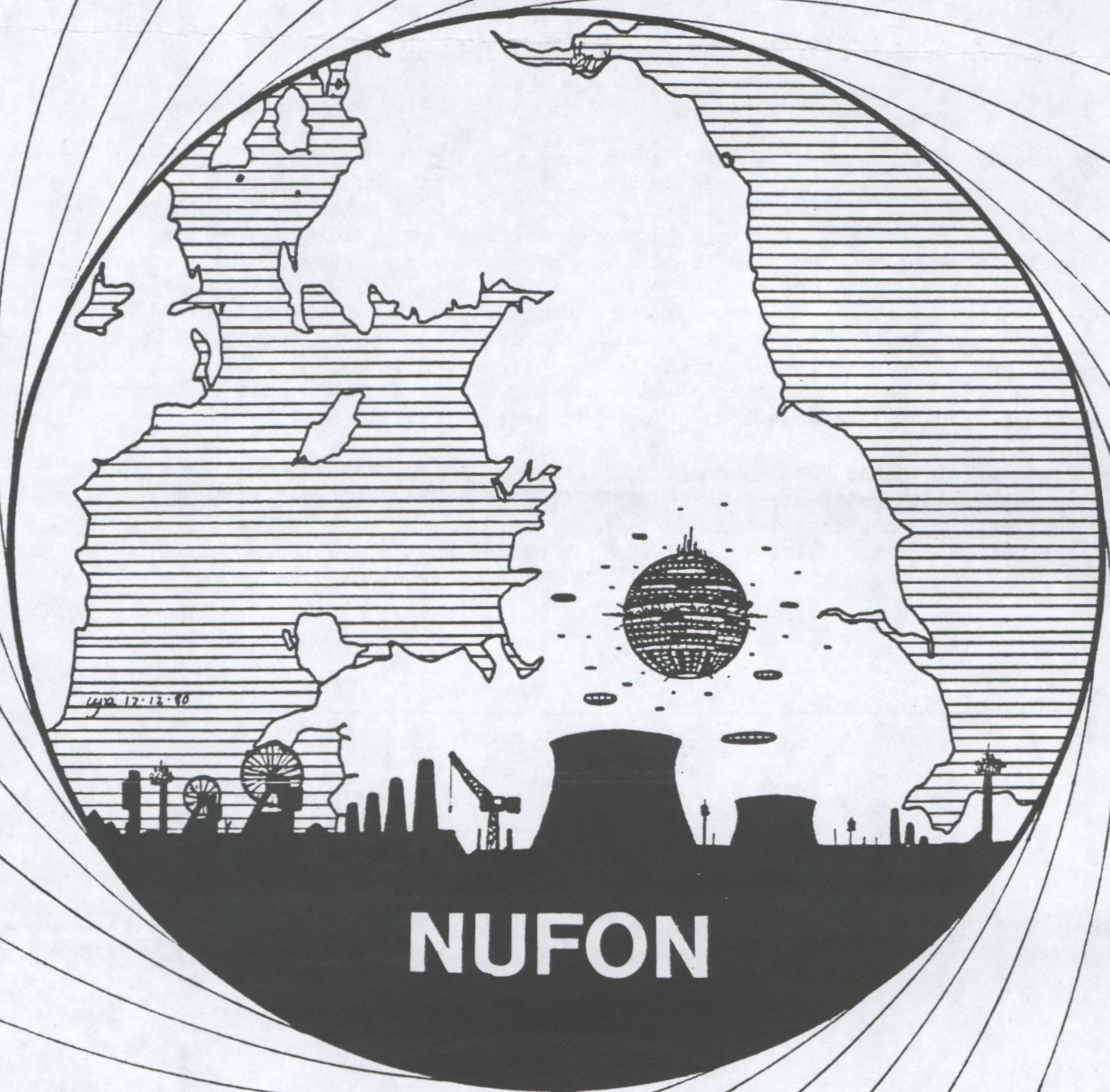


NORTHERN UFO INTERVIEWS



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ISSUE 99

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTIMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As you may have noticed the next issue is to be number 100. To coincide with this we have decided to upgrade the standards of this publication. I am pleased to be able to tell you we are going fully litho; thus allowing a clean, professional product (which will be professionally produced) and a new format so that Northern UFO News will look somewhat like Magonia or Common Ground, with photo-reduced size and much better illustrative facilities.

Subscription for 1983 is being retained at £4.20, for which we hope to publish 4 litho issues (in Jan/Feb; Mar/Apr; Jul/Aug & Sep/Oct) plus a Summer & Winter duplicated 'link' (in June & Dec). Each litho issue will be the equivalent size of FOUR publications such as this one, and so much more space will be available for new features and detailed case reports (the case histories feature being extended). You, the reader, will thus get a better deal...and it will only take a small rise in subscription totals to allow us to litho all six publications.

To encourage you to go out now and recruit these new subscribers we are offering (to March 1st) a deal whereby if you get one of your colleagues to agree to take Northern UFO News (provided he is not a current subscriber) then both of you can subscribe for just £7. You should be responsible for paying this (cheques to NUFON) and you may split the saving, or charge your friend the full rate and gain the saving (of £1.40) yourself. There is nothing to stop your friend doing likewise by getting another new subscriber...and (work it out) if you find 5 new subscribers you will get your subscription FREE! If you have already paid for 1983, the offer still applies to any new subscribers you can find (just send the difference).

Northern UFO News is going to be well worth taking in 1983...surely there are other members of your group, or colleagues, who do not yet subscribe! Find them - and help us provide a better deal and a better magazine for you. Jenny Randles

What U Missed at UMIST!

The investigators seminar held in October was something of an experiment, being the first BUFORA venture (joining with MUFORA) outside London. It was firmly aimed at the practical field ufologist.

The venue was UMIST, a Manchester centre university, and the host group was well represented (with all its active team). Unfortunately, investigators from elsewhere were less forthcoming (especially NUFON groups), although SCUFORI (from Swindon) came in strength, and the audience comprised a hard-working bunch of 26 keen and dedicated investigators.

Proceedings began with a role-play exercise, where Jenny Randles took the role of a real witness to a real (but unpublicised) CE 3 incident. The audience was split into three groups which took on specific roles, without the rest knowing what these were. One was the 'British UFO & Spaceship Club', a cultist pro-UFO society. Two was the Society Against Pseudo-Scientific Nonsense. Three was a middle-ground radio show called 'So They Told Us'. A lengthy interrogation session ensued with the audience questioning the 'witness' from within their various roles. This worked so well it considerably over-ran. Afterwards each group presented the facts they had gleaned (from the standpoint they had adopted) in the form of official reports. This led to much interesting discussion about roles within ufology, the policy of the media and how very differing slants can be placed on the same set of facts. In this way many of the problems on interviewing were thrown into relief, and it was concluded that the investigator must start with the premise he can explain a case, but be ready to admit that he has reached a point where this seems unlikely to be possible. This part of the programme was enjoyed by all.

Next, Stephen Simpson, a lecturer from Bolton College, talked about perception as it relates specifically to judgement of motion, size & structure. He illustrated this with many illusions and demonstrations that sent us all gog-eyed but made their point about witness abilities. Putting the investigator in the place of the witness for once paid excellent dividends!

Finally, an interview with ufo witness Marion Sunderland was shown on the video. She discussed what she saw as an ideal investigator and investigation and we had a discussion of the use and abuse of witness data and the value of the new code of practice. It was unfortunate time ran out with this in full flight!

TWO...

All in all, the day was a success - and perhaps the forerunner of other practical ventures of this kind.

NEWS ROUND-UP

** Shirley McIver has asked me to correct an impression from the editorial in NUN 98, where it was said that John Groom did not film her for the HORIZON programme because she was not a sceptic. She says, "I'm pretty sure this was not the reason for mission..." and explains that he tried repeatedly to contact her, but by the time Shirley got back to him he had gone to America to film. She adds, "If Mr Groom himself made the statement, I can only assume he was angered by my failure to contact him immediately. Or perhaps he doesn't know anything about sociology!" It was in no way my intention to suggest that Shirley is anything other than an unbiased and serious researcher... rather the mention of John Groom's remark was used to show his bias in the preparation of the programme.

** More details are emerging about the exciting BUFORA Congress (August 27/28/29 1983) The venue is a country lodge (The Lorch Foundation) at Lane End, a village nr High Wycombe. Tickets will be on sale early April (but you can get your name on the advance list now) That might be a good idea in view of the quality of papers and attendees; already booked to give papers are: Dr J Allen Hynek, Dr Stanton Friedman and Dr Harley Rutledge (USA), Dr Alex Keul (Austria), Dr Bertil Kuhlemann & Per Anderson (Scandinavia) & from Britain; Dr Sue Blackmore, Paul Devereux, Hilary Evans & Jenny Randles... plus a major seminar on the Peter Day movie film case (rated by many as the best UFO evidence ever to emerge from Britain!) Sounds rather promising!

** BUFORA has produced the CODE OF PRACTICE, in its final form, as a handy booklet that investigators can keep for reference (eg to show to witnesses). Complete with an introduction and a double copy detachable slip for investigators to declare allegiance to the code (to be returned to BUFORA who intend to publish an annually updated register of all investigators - BUFORA members or not - who sign the code) Is your group going to come-of-age? If so all your investigators should sign the code. Copies are available at 20 p each (plus 15 p per order postage) or £1 for six copies (post free). FROM: Arnold West 16 Southway Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST

Lies, All Lies.... Those of you advocating the use of lie detectors in UFO contact cases should heed the words of Dr David Lykken, of the University of Minnesota, quoted in The Times... "It is an insidious myth in the United States that lie detectors produce highly accurate results. In fact the best scientific evidence is that the polygraph produces a wrong answer about one times in three, while the results from the voice stress analysers are no better than you would get by flipping a coin... I hope the poison does not cross the ocean." York University's Professor Peter Venables, who researches the link between physiology and psychology, is of the opinion we should not allow them in Britain..... Credit: Harry Harris

Hello & Farewell... This month's other publications

MAGIC SAUCER bows out after 4 years with issue 24. Crystal Hogben, its editor, is moving on to new things in the new age-ecology world. We wish her well. MS will be missed. But, meantime, hello to EXPANSION (87 Wendell Rd London W12) a new newstand publication on "expanded consciousness today". Allen Hynek is one 'consultant'. Look out for the First Issue at 90p. UFO RESEARCH MIDLANDS produce their second n/1 with two detailed case investigations amongst other things. Well worth 25p from 23 Linden Rd Hinckley Leics LE10 0AR. OSEAPs second CENTRE UPDATE is a list of reviews of books and articles, with a curious remark about the Code of Practice 'Many feel that this form of certified investigator is a more than convenient tool to use when methods become under question' That needs an explanation I feel! Who are the 'many'? Finally, the latest offering from the prolific Andy Collins - a 30pp litho in COMMON GROUND format, called EARTHQUEST NEWS... neat & packed with articles on UFOs, ghosts, earth mysteries & alien animals. Well worthy of 90p (post inc) or just £3 for 4 issues.... c/o 19 St Davids Way Wickford Essex SS11 8EX

IN THE POST.... "I am interested in the recent muggy weather which contained so much electromagnetism. This is always very trying for the humanoids of this small earth planet. It is always a sign of many spaceships around... We must always consider their immense speed. While the air forces take 3 mins to get a plane into the air, the space ship is the other side of the earth plain. Fortunately, man cannot intercept them, as they do not come with hate and war in their hearts as man always does. They have learned to live together..." FROM a little village called LANE END near High Wycombe! (See BUFORA Congress details) Oops!

THREE...

WHERE NO UFOLOGIST HAS GONE BEFORE... Report on ITVs 'The Final Frontier'

Being led down a long corridor by a group of bearded and costumed legionnaires, swords a-dangling, into a room where you are sat on a swivel chair and interrogated under hot arc-lights, whilst in the background the same electronic noise from Orchestral Mannouvers in the Dark (a group, to you uninitiated) is played over and over on guitars and moog syrethiser... that hardly sounds like a ufologists dream come true! But it was where I found myself a few weeks back during the day we put together the Granada TV programme 'The Final Frontier', networked by ITV on November 3.

The legionnaires were there for a production of King Lear, and just happened to be going to an adjacent studio. And fortunately I did not share the floor managers view of O.M.I.T.D.s music (he said it sounded better the three times a recording of it was wound backwards!) But the end result was, I think, quite a nice TV slot and the first UFO item that can truly be said to have been at least co-directed by ufologists. That is, producer Martyn Day came to me six months before work began and we consulted on the script and basic ideas; even allowing me to change things on the auto-cue right up to the last minute. The end result was a 12 minute feature (about half the programme) that was pretty much as we had planned it to be. Presenter Fred Talbot linked the item with bits Martyn and I wrote that introduced UFOs in the past, the Ken Arnold story (with rare film of him and his plane) and how the mythos grew up with all its misconceptions. This faded into an interview between Fred and I (largely pre-planned) where I described latest work on trying to explain UFOs (the piezo effect & video-films in the mind etc). Then advice to children on what to do if they encountered a UFO. This blended into a on-site reconstruction of the 'circle-of-lights' in the Rossendale reservoir case (referenced in NUN recently), with the witnesses, and an interview with Mike Sacks about the MUFORA investigation process on the case. The summation was that we had an interesting problem.

The programme went out at 4.45 pm, and was aimed at children. But we were pleased in the end that we made good points to everybody. A plea for reports was given and (symptomatic of the UFO dearth) only a trickle came in - practically all from adults. But at least two are very promising close encounters. Overall it was a pleasing exercise for which we owe a great deal both to Granada TV and their far-sighted and ambivalent producer, Martyn Day.

A 'Well-done Piezo' - with everything!

Mark Brown

The much needed open-minded approach to UFO investigation has been hampered in recent years by the insistence of a few that they now have the answer which best solves the UFO problem. Strong, and in many cases callous, criticism can turn these theorists into dogmatic defenders of their pet theory. The piezo-electric effect (see editorial NUN 97) at least has the soluble merit of being a physical process with an examinable cause, mechanism and effect. However, it may be prudent to issue a caution, for whilst the existence of piezo-electricity is well established the assertion that it can be produced in sub-soil rock strata is still within the realms of theory.

At the generation stage (where balls of light are said to seep out from breaks in a 'charged' vein of quartz - the breaks being rock-faults) we serious researchers need to gain greater understanding. It is imperative that the geologists and physicists within our number come together and study this effect. Before ascribing vast numbers of cases to this process we must become aware of its limitations. Paul Devereux's work in EARTH-LIGHTS does suggest a correlation between areas of ball-of-light UFO sightings and UK earth faults. But a study by scientists is needed, after a feasibility study by ufologists. Understanding this effect could prove the most significant undertaking by any UK UFO team to date.

(Readers, and Mark in particular, are directed to the enclosed GAIA circular..JR)

INVESTIGATION JOTTINGS:

** A fascinating letter from Mike Collier (a Sussex dentist) tells of his work dowsing at ley's. He says the figures exactly mirror the decline in UFO reports, supporting a connection. He quotes 1977 Days when leys 'off' NIL; Very Strong 20... 1978 Off (6) VS (9)... 1979 Off (5) VS (8)... 1980 Off (43) VS (6)... 1981 Off (51) VS (5)... to Nov 1982 Off (206) VS (5). If anyone is particularly interested in this work, or the connections it suggests, then Mike would like to hear from you at 1- Willowhale 2d Meeching Rd Newhaven SSx BN9 9QX

FOUR...

** The Daily Star of Sept 8 1982 reported 'Pigeons get lost in a flight to the right'. Apparently in Aug/Sep homing pigeons were suddenly losing direction sense and scientists were speculating on "some unexplainable natural phenomenon"...eg changes in the ionosphere or electromagnetic disturbance. This is interesting in view of the ionisation/piezo-electric theory for UFOs and the fact that the only mini-wave we have had in 1982 matched this time! Maybe we can use homing pigeons as early warning devices for UFO flaps!

76-173 LOW Date Unknown 02.30 Hints, West Midlands BUFORA Lev C
Woman saw flame coloured ball of light fall to ground in seconds. Prob. Meteor.

82-29 LOW AUG 23 1982 21.15 Scarborough, N Yorks BUFORA Lev E
6 points of 'flitting lights' beside the moon in a cloudy sky. Golden in colour. Very small. Moving erratically.....See comment below.

82-30 MED AUG 27 1982 19.30 Leeds, West Yorks N. Mortimer Lev B
14 yr old Mathew saw object thru bedroom window. Opened it to watch ovalish cigar app. size of 2p piece. Running into garden he saw dark top and silvery shining base. Running excited back into the house he called the attention of his sister Geraldine (18). Both saw the object, now at its closest, in a clear sky with the sun just setting. It moved steadily and silently across the sky, taking 2 mins to do so, and was lost behind a line of chimneys. Both viewed it for a time via binoculars and Geraldine saw it then as 'egg-shaped' and said, 'Its shape was a little too odd for an aeroplane'. The possibility of a balloon seems to have been overlooked.

82-31 LOW AUG 27 1982 23.50 Cleveleys, Lancs J. Randles Lev B
An interesting LITS case supplied by the witnesses the day after it happened by fortuitous chance. Man & wife, who live in Blackpool right beside the new laser illuminations and so are positive this was nothing to do with them, were leaving the home of a female friend when three bright white lights appeared in the N (over Fleetwood) and moved along the coast heading S (towards Blackpool). At first they were parallel but as they approached they came closer and then widened out again. The husband is positive they were three distinct objects as they interchanged positions in flight. They have since judged a/c passing at night at similar distances. Navigation lights are always visible and the craft is audible. This has some connection with case 82-29 above. See comment below.

82-32 LOW AUG 28 1982 23.30 Southport, Msyside J. Randles Lev D
Witness, unfortunately, failed to continue cooperation on this interesting LITS. He was at his aunts when 16 fuzzy, off-white objects passed across the sky at 2 sec intervals. Going outside amazed he saw 4 similar objects moving round in a circle for 30 mins. He called his aunt. After another 15 mins she went in 'bored'. But he saw the circle broaden and a second similar circle appear and bisect the first. Both kept spinning. Next day he recalled he had 2 brand new 24 exposure films ready loaded in the house but during the whole hour just never thought! Readers may recall Nigel Watson's case 82-26, at Scunthorpe the same night. He concluded a spinning ball of insects was responsible there. Several cases in this period Aug 22-28 (from all over the North & Midlands) have featured several fuzzy white objects. It seems possible that this is a bioluminescent phenomenon of some kind active during this spell (maybe tied in with the alleged atmospheric disturbance that was throwing off the pigeons). In other words, either birds or insects, or both.

82-33 LOW SEP 24 1982 02.30 Bacup, Lancs M. Sacks (MUFORA) Lev A
Man saw 2 bright white 'car headlights' separated by undefined dark shape, in sky just above hill-line and moving down from the brow of the hill. Quite silent, but otherwise reminded him of a helicopter. The Mystery 'Copter strikes again! (See forthcoming THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY for the history of this phenomenon)

The case of the phantom motorcyclist: Readers of UFOs: A British Viewpoint may recall the unusual, very tall silver-suited figure encountered on a road at Ewloe in July 1975. A motorcyclist from Surrey has written to tell that one very wet night as he drove cross Wales (near Ewloe or Corwen), en route from the Holyhead ferry, he met a very similar figure (after midnight). He was very tall (over 7 ft) and wore a silver, plastic 'spacesuit' and thick boots. His expression showed horror at being seen and he fled into a phonebox and hid!

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PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT: New Address for Editor, Jenny Randles. Effective now.
:- 9 Grosfield Rd, Somerville, Wallasey, Wirral L44 9EH (051-630-5394)
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